

The New England Center for Children®

*Autism Education and Research*

NECC® Clinic – Abu Dhabi

*Interdisciplinary Services in the Middle East*



# Our Services

The New England Center for Children (NECC) is a non-profit organisation founded in 1975 in Massachusetts, USA. In 1997 the GCC Consulting Division was established in the UAE under which the NECC Consulting Department, Abu Dhabi, first opened its doors in 2007. The vision of NECC is to educate teachers and parents using the power of technology, to bring help to hundreds of thousands of students and their families, and give hope to millions.



# Applied Behavior Analysis

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy is an evidence-based approach designed to help individuals, particularly those with autism or other developmental disabilities, improve socially significant behaviors and skills. ABA focuses on understanding how behavior is influenced by the environment and uses this knowledge to encourage positive behaviors while reducing harmful or disruptive ones. Through structured interventions developed by a certified Behavior Analyst, behavior technicians break down complex tasks into smaller, more manageable steps, reinforcing progress along the way. The goal is to increase skills in areas like communication, social interaction, and daily living, while also helping individuals develop more independent and adaptive behaviors. ABA is personalized to meet each individual's unique needs and is used in various settings, including homes, schools, and clinics.



# Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and language therapy (SLT) helps individuals improve their communication skills, including understanding and expressing language, developing clearer speech, and fostering social interactions. It is commonly used to assist children and adults who have speech delays, language disorders, articulation difficulties, fluency disorders, and social communication challenges. Therapy may involve strategies to improve articulation, speech intelligibility, language comprehension and expression, social interaction, non-verbal communication skills and the use of augmentative or alternative communication systems (AAC). The goal of SLT is to help individuals communicate more confidently and effectively across different contexts, enhancing their overall quality of life. The SLT services provided at NECC are directly implemented by a Master's level Speech and Language Pathologist. SLT is available in English, French and Arabic.



# Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapy (OT) helps individuals of all ages develop or regain the skills needed to perform daily tasks, or "occupations," that are important to them. This can include activities like dressing, cooking, working, or participating in hobbies. Occupational therapists work with people who have physical, mental, or developmental challenges that make it difficult to perform these everyday tasks, such as those with injuries, disabilities, or chronic conditions. By using customized exercises, adaptive tools, and practical strategies, OT helps individuals improve their fine motor skills, coordination, strength, and cognitive abilities. The goal is to promote independence, enhance quality of life, and help individuals participate more fully in the activities that matter most to them, whether at home, school, or work.



# Intake Assessment

The purpose of the Intake Assessment is to help the NECC-Clinic supervisory team understand a child's current skill set and determine the services that will best support their development. This process includes reviewing records, meeting with parents, caregivers, and/or school staff, andspending time with the child through observation and direct assessment. Observations are typically carried out over two days and, if needed, in two different settings to provide awell-rounded view of the child's skills and needs. Afterward, families receive a report with recommendations for therapies such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), Speech and Language Therapy (SLT), and/or OccupationalTherapy (OT), along with guidance on how many hours andwhich locations will be most helpful. These recommendations may change as the child grows and progresses. A signed contract between the family and theNECC Clinic outlining the agreed upon number of hours ofservice delivery is required before initiating services.

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# Clinic-Based Services

Following the intake assessment and contract signing, services begin for the agreed upon number of treatment hours per week. Each clients' individualised program will be developed by the supervising certified Behavior Analyst and implemented by a team of fully trained and supervised, certified behavior technicians. Speech and Language and/or OT goals will be developed and implemented by a certified SLP/OT, with specific skills being generalized to the behavior therapists in order to successfully embed SLP/OT targets across weekly ABA sessions as appropriate.
Quarterly progress report meetings, parent/caregiver training and scheduled observations will take place at the NECC-Clinic.

In order to ensure generalisation of skills acquired within the clinic setting, home, school and community-based sessions will be made available based on measurable performance and clinical recommendations. These sessions involve parent, caregiver and teacher/LSA support and training in order to facilitate the transfer of skills to the client's natural environment. As skills successfully transfer, support will be systematically faded.



# Consultation Services

Consultation services involve one or more of our Behavior Analysts, SLP and/or OT clinicians providing direct supervisory support to families, caregivers and school teams. Support may be delivered in the form of training, positive behavior support strategies, clinical support and guidance with decision making related to client needs, and collaboration with the family and any other agencies involved in the clients' team. Consultation is delivered in the settings clinically deemed to be most appropriate for ensuring client progress and success, and are faded out appropriately.



# Vocational Training

As an organization, NECC has been teaching vocational skills for more than 25 years to children with autism. Vocational training prepares students for life after school. Workplace skills development includes discovering interests and strengths, following directions, and mastering responsibility. We at NECC are committed to engaging in meaningful and individualized partnerships with organizations in the local Abu Dhabi community to provide on-site work experiences for our clients.




# ACE® ABA Software System

ACE is a web based teaching technology built on decades of evidence-based practices and grounded in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) principles. It uses a comprehensive curriculum from foundational skills & self-care to workplace readiness and transitioning to adulthood. With paperless data collection ACE has effortless, user-friendly tracking of progress with digital tools and with real-time reports behavior analysts can instantly evaluate and track progress and adjust strategies as needed.

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# Overview of Fees

Clinic-based services are fully inclusive of a NECC, highly trained behavior technician providing services with frequent on-going supervision by a certified Behavior Analyst and direct support from a speech pathologist or occupational therapist if applicable. Access to the ACE curriculum program, quarterly progress reports and parent meetings andparent/caregiver training are embedded.  There are no additional hidden costs. Clinic-based and Behavior Analyst/SLP/OT consultation fees are determined based on the type of services required and number of agreed upon hours.

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# Insurance Coverage

Insurance coverage is available via reimbursement. NECC is happy to collaborate and provide documentation for services provided. Each insurance company has specific requirements for letters of support, pre-approval requirements, maximum sessions or hours allotment, etc., and successful insurance coverage is dependent on your policy. We encourage you to review your policy or contact the insurance company to inquire.

# NECC Clinic Service Roadmap



### Intake assesment

Our clinicians complete an internal assessment to determine whether services are appropriate and provide individualized recommendations.

### Service Agreement

A contract is signed between the family and the NECC Clinic.

### Initiate Services

Services begin for the agreed upon number of treatment hours per week in the designated delivery setting.

### Treatment Plan Development

Within four weeks of starting services, an individualized treatment plan is developed.

### Teaching and Intervention

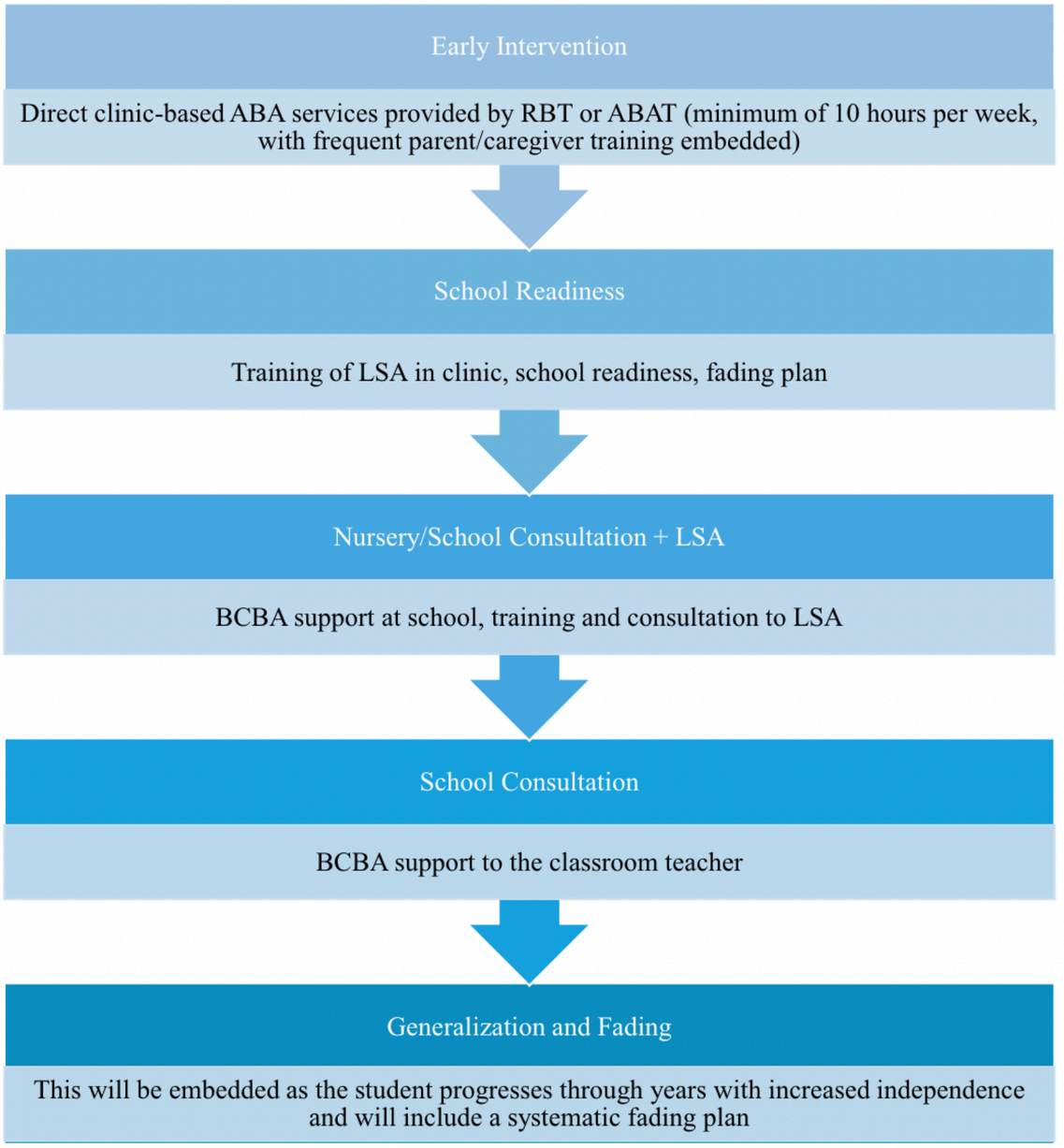
Clinicians provide individualized instruction based on the treatment plan.

### Progress Review

Formal progress reports are prepared every quarter or academic term.

### Adjustments Based on Progress

As the child's independence increases, service intensity is gradually reduced.




This is an outline of the anticipated progress of treatment when starting and fading ABA therapy. Each client will start within one of the treatment programs below and this will be determined based on specific client needs.

# NECC: Expertise You Can Measure



300 + research articles



2,600 + research presentations



23 + countries where we've presented



1,800 + master's degrees received through our on-site graduate programs



1,300 + teachers across the globe



170 + behavior analysts



# Kristin Buchanan MSEd, BCBA (USA)

Executive Director of Gulf Consulting

“Every mind is unique; true teaching begins when we adapt our methods to meet the learner where they are. “

Kristin is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst with over 20 years of experience in the field. She has held various key roles, including Educational Director at The Joshua School in the United States, and currently serves as the Executive Director of the NECC Gulf Consulting Department. In this capacity, Kristin has been instrumental in pioneering the development of NECC's Clinic-Based services, providing individuals with an alternative placement option to traditional general education settings.

**Qualifications:**

- Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BACB)
- Behavior Analyst Graduate Certificate. Northeastern University, USA
- MSEd in Special Education. Simmons University, USA
- Licensed by the Department of Health (DOH)



# Shannon Ward PhD, BCBA-D (USA)

Abu Dhabi Program Director

“My passion lies in working collaboratively with families, schools, and stakeholders to tackle the biggest challenges facing each individual. Through personalized and compassionate services, we can create meaningful outcomes and help individuals lead joyful and fulfilling lives.”

Dr. Shannon Ward is a highly experienced Board-Certified Behavior Analyst with 20 years of experience in the field. Having started her career as a therapist in home settings and later transitioning into roles as a special education teacher, Dr. Ward has a well-rounded background in supporting individuals with and without disabilities. She has held key positions at The New England Center for Children (NECC), including serving as the Director of Research and Clinical Director at the Mohammed bin Rashid Center for Special Education in Abu Dhabi. Throughout her career, she has worked across a variety of settings, including residential programs and consulting services, focusing on providing meaningful outcomes through evidence-based practices. Dr. Ward is passionate about driving impactful change through collaboration with families and professionals to improve the quality of life for individuals in the program.

## Qualifications:

- Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctoral (BACB-D)
- PhD in Behavior Analysis, Western New England University, USA
- Master’s in Applied Behavior Analysis, Western New England University, USA
- BA in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education, Saint Louis University, USA
- Licensed by the Department of Health (DOH)



# Tiffany Howley MS, BCBA (USA)

Community Outreach Specialist

“I am deeply committed to collaborating with community partners to ensure that individuals of determination are not only included in every facet of community life but are also empowered to thrive and succeed.”

Tiffany is a dedicated Board-Certified Behavior Analyst with extensive experience in supporting individuals of determination. She began her career in 2008 at The New England Center for Children (NECC) in Boston, where she worked in the residential program before moving to the GCC and UK based programs, gaining valuable hands-on experience. In the GCC, she has worked closely with private schools to foster positive inclusion experiences for students. Tiffany is passionate about leveraging her clinical background to drive impactful community outreach initiatives. She is committed to building meaningful partnerships with local organizations to raise awareness and enhance accessibility for individuals of determination, ensuring they are not only included but also empowered to succeed and reach their full potential in all aspects of community life.

**Qualifications:**

- Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BACB)
- MSc in Applied Behavior Analysis. Northeastern University, USA
- BA in Psychology and Elementary Education. Villanova University, USA
- Licensed by the Department of Health (DOH)

# Contact Us

For more details on the services highlighted, please visit our website or explore our social media channels. If you'd like to speak to a representative or schedule a tour, don't hesitate to reach out – we're here to help!


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